

TOP SECRET

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PRESS ITEM FOR THE DCI

DISTRIBUTION:

DDCI
ExD
DDI
DDP
DOCI
ONE
OSR
OSI (2)
C/OPCN
PDB
INDICO
CSDO
SAVA
OSD

e
fe
wh
mea

24

Date: 5 Sept
Item: # 7
Ref: #

WARHEADS

WASHINGTON (AP)--SOVIET TESTS OF A LONG-RANGE MISSILE CAPABLE OF PACKING "BUSHELS OF WARHEADS" MAY FORCE A SHARP REAPPRAISAL OF THE U.S. MISSILE COUNTERPUNCH.

EXPANSION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL SENTINEL DEFENSIVE SYSTEM AND THE NATION'S OFFENSIVE MISSILE ARSENAL ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS TEST-FIRED A MISSILE HAULING FOUR WARHEADS.

U.S. EXPERTS LEARNED OF THE SOVIET TEST EARLY THIS WEEK, EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK PLACE IN LATE AUGUST, A WEEK AFTER SIMILAR TESTS AT CAPE KENNEDY, FLA.

SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., A MEMBER OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY, SAID THE PENTAGON--OFFICIALLY MUM SO FAR--HAD NOT INFORMED HIM OF THE TEST. BUT MILITARY SOURCES CONFIRMED THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY HAD FIRED A NEW-TYPE IDBM.

SOURCES INDICATED THEY AREN'T CERTAIN WHETHER THE WARHEADS WERE GUIDED OR UNGUIDED.

THIS WOULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, INDICATING WHETHER THE WARHEADS COULD BE ACCURATE ENOUGH TO KNOCK OUT UNDERGROUND MISSILE SILOS.

JACKSON SAID A SOVIET MOVE INTO THE MULTIPLE-WARHEAD FIELD COULD THREATEN U.S. MISSILES FORMING THE BEDROCK OF THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

"THIS RAISES A QUANTITATIVE QUESTION ABOUT OUR MISSILE NEEDS," HE SAID. "IT OPENS THE DOOR TO A REVISION OF ALL OUR FIXED NUMBERS."

JA959AED SEPT. 5

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

25

WASHINGTON -- ADD WARHEADS (24)

THE UNITED STATES HAS PEAKED CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIR FORCE MINUTEMAN, CAPABLE OF INTERCONTINENTAL RANGES, A 1,000 MISSILES. BUT THE SOVIET UNION IS EXPECTED TO HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, AND WITH SEVERAL BOMBS ATOP THEM WOULD FIELD WHAT JACKSON CALLED A "TREMENDOUS" NUMBER OF WARHEADS.

WITH THAT DESTRUCTIVE FORCE CAPABLE OF ERODING AMERICAN NUCLEAR STRENGTH, THE ISSUE IS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULD EXPAND THE 1,000-STRONG ICBM ARSENAL, JACKSON SAID.

PENTAGON OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT IF 400 U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILES SURVIVED A SOVIET MISSILE ATTACK, THE UNITED STATES COULD STILL KILL 30 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SOVIET TEST IS BELIEVED TO HAVE INVOLVED THE SS9 MISSILE, BIGGER AND MORE ACCURATE THAN THE SOVIET SS11, A WEAPON SIMILAR TO THE MINUTEMAN.

JACKSON SAID THE SS9, WHICH NORMALLY CARRIES ONE BIG MULTIMEGATON BOMB, COULD BE ADAPTED TO CARRY "BUSHELS OF WARHEADS."

ONE MILITARY OFFICER SAID A SOVIET DECISION TO GO TO MULTIPLE WARHEADS WOULD PRIMARILY AFFECT THE PLANNED U.S. SENTINEL ANTIMISSILE SYSTEM--WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESENT EXPLANATIONS, IS AIMED AT THE EMERGING COMMUNIST CHINESE THREAT.

FUNDS FOR STARTING THE SENTINEL SYSTEM ARE CONTAINED IN THE 72-BILLION DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS MEASURE NOW BEFORE CONGRESS. THE FUNDS SURVIVED NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO DELETE THEM.

CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS CHARGED THAT THE \$5-BILLION SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH PLANNED AS A DEFENSE AGAINST RED CHINA, COULD MUSHROOM INTO A 40-BILLION-PLUS DEFENSE AGAINST RUSSIA.

JA1005AED SEPT. 5

STAT

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000200180047-6

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000200180047-6

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000200180047-6

Circulate *R* *R*
RE

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000200180047-6